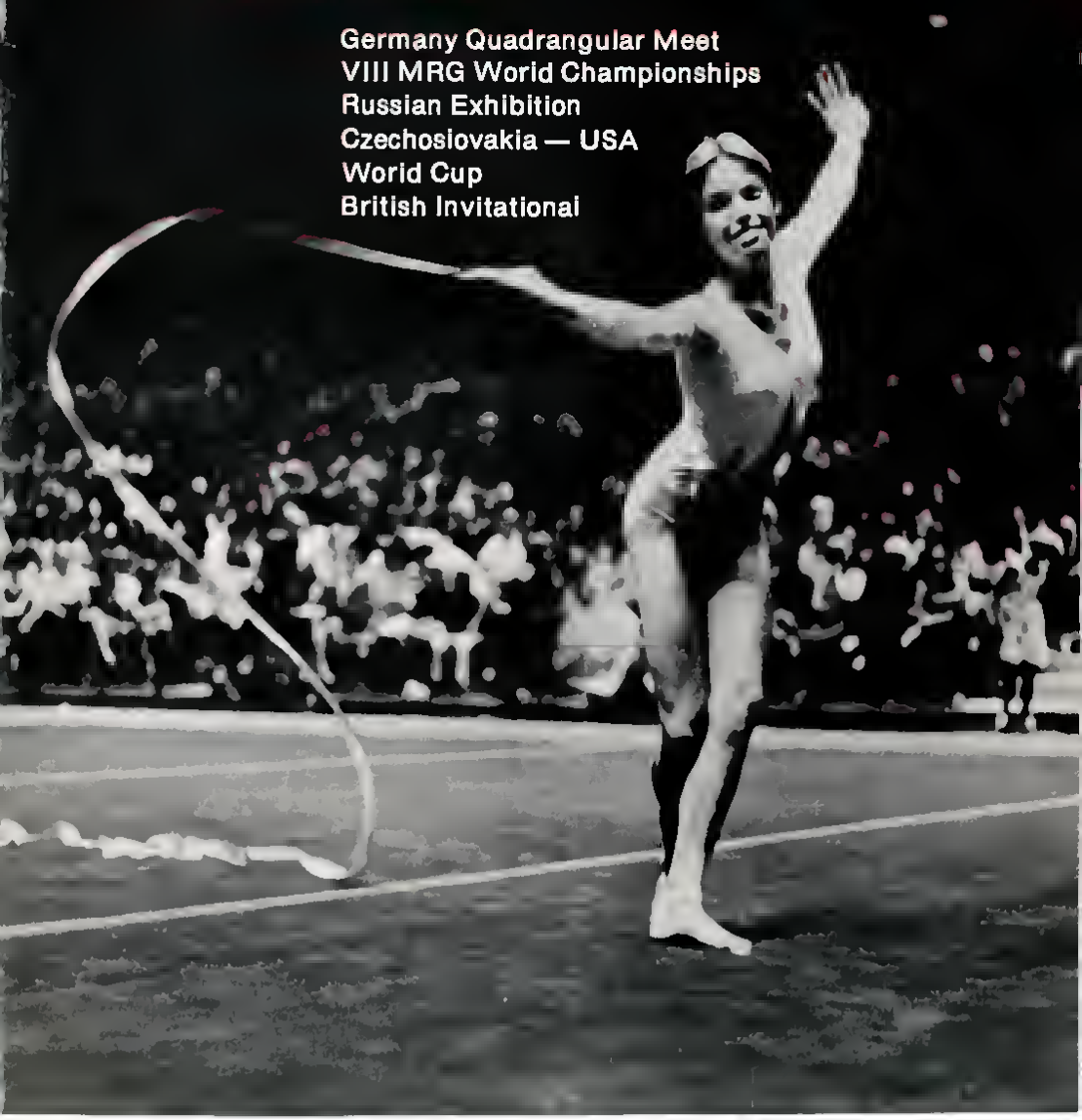
UNITED STATES GYMNASTICS FEDERATION'S

GYMNASTICS NEWS

JANUARY - FEBRUARY 1973 VOL.VII - NO. 1

Germany Quadrangular Meet
VIII MRG World Championships
Russian Exhibition
Czechoslovakia — USA
World Cup
British Invitational

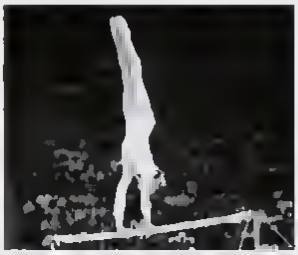


USGF WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP TOUR

United States Gymnastics Federation

The United States Gymnastics Federation is pleased to announce the formation of a tour to the 1978 World Gymnastics Championships, to be held in Strasbourg, France in October of next year. We have arranged for hotel space, tickets to the competitions and round trip air charter from Chicago, Illinois. All this and free time for travel in Europe as well.

TOUR PLAN



October 15 Depart Chicago, Illinois via TWA Charter Boeing 707.

October 18. Arrive Zurich, Switzerland (early morning) remain overnight

October 17-21. On your own, to see Switzerland, Germany or France all of them are just next door to Zurich We can help you with any arrangements you desire, or be on your own until . . .

October 21 Arrive afternoon or evening in Strasbourg and report to the headquarters hotel. Rooms are reserved there for the entire world championships, including breakfast Hotel is walking distance to the competitions.

October 30 The world championships have closed on the 29th, and this morning we board trains or buses and head for Zurich, and on arrival board our charter flight and return to Chicago, we arrive in time for most everyone to make connections to their home city that same day or night

---

Complete and mail the following.

Name _____ Phone ( ) _____

Address _____ City/State/Zip _____

_____

I wish to reserve _____ seats on the USGF WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP TOUR-1978 . . . in Strasbourg, France during the period of time shown above. I understand that the tour includes the items described herein, and that the period of time from October 17 20 is on my own although I may seek assistance in planning or arranging travel and housing during that time period Cost of tour, subject to change only so far as air increases passed on to the USGF are concerned is $990.00 Limited payments will be accepted to hold seats and monthly or periodic payments may be applied to your account We enclose the amount of $..... ..... to hold the number of seats requested above. We understand that there is no cancellation fee and that all of our funds are fully returnable up to January 1,1978, after that date a fee of $50.00 will be charged. After April 1,1978 the funds are non-refundable, but as in years past if the USGF holds a waiting list that they will sell your space for you if at all possible.

Signed _____

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS TOUR '78. SEND TO PO Box 12713, Tucson, Arizona 85732

France 1978

UNITED STATES GYMNASTIC FEDERATION

U.S. Gymnastics Federation, 4545 East 5th Street, Tucson, Arizona 85711

GYMNASTICS NEWS

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 1978

On the Cover

Modern Rhythmic Gymnast
SUE SOFFE

PHOTO CREDITS
Jack Mertes
Barbara Hoover

LAYOUT DESIGN
David E Jácome

The U S GYMNASTICS FEDERATION NEWS, the official publication of the sport of gymnastics in the United States, is published every other month by U.S G F Contains announcements pertaining to coming events, information about past and current events and announces rule changes and other technical information vital to those who are involved with sports. Includes notices from the International Federation (FIG) Annual subscription rate, $5 00 per year Order from the USGF Press P O. Box 12713, Tucson, Arizona 85732, U S.A.

Thank you

It has been my privilege and pleasure to serve as president of the United States Gymnastics Federation for the past four years. I leave the office with a sense of pride of having been a part of a rapidly growing and popular amateur sport in the United States today Thank you for the opportunity to serve

While working with all of you in the sport of gymnastics I find everywhere a sense of dedication and a desire to excel. You are to be commended for your efforts and accomplishments

I wish to express special commendation to Mr Frank Bare Executive Director of the United States Gymnastics Federation for his outstanding service and contribution to the sport Under his capable leadership the U S G F has become one of the foremost sports federations in the Country

Although I am stepping down as president of the U S G F, I would like to continue to serve the Federation in any manner that might be of benefit to it Certainly as your representative on the United States Olympic Committee I will constantly strive to promote and uphold the ideals and objectives of the U S G F

I extend my very best wishes for the continued growth and success of the United States Gymnastics Federation

HARRY FITZHUGH

Meet the newest member of the U.S. Gymnastics Team.

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The makers of Dial Soap have long believed exercise is essential for fitness. That's why we've joined with the United States Gymnastics Federation to help promote gymnastics across the country.

For years, the USGF has endeavored to develop the gymnastic skills of boys and girls of all ages, from grade school novices to Olympic hopefuls.

To encourage their efforts, we've joined them as a sponsor to help this sport receive the participation and recognition it deserves.

THE DIRECTOR COMMENTS

The 55th Congress of the International Gymnastics Federation convened in Rome Italy, on November 25th The various technical committees proceeded to conduct their meetings and the General Assembly was held the following day Slightly more than 40 nations attended that s out of a potential 72 now holding membership in the FIG The meetings were well conducted and explored some new areas for the sport for the near future

The USA s proposal for open scoring was soundly and overwhelmingly defeated The same proposal was put forth by Romania and about the only three nations supporting it were Romania the USSR and the USA We were quite surprised that more nations did not feel a need for open scoring since we now use it in the United States and most judges and coaches feel it quite fair and it has not presented any problems even though there existed some apprehension here before it was tried One can only speculate as to why those voting did not wish to have the individual judges show their scores to the whole world but the FIG soundly rejected the proposal and so we accept that decision

The WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS will now be held every two years not every four years as it was historically This we believe is a positive step forward and if it should prove to be successful in every way the obvious move in years to come would be to have the WC s every year The next official World Championships, of course are set for October 22-29 in Strasbourg France, and then to get into the swing for the future the next one should be October-November of 1979 From that event the top twelve teams would qualify for the 1980 Olympic Games Then the World Championships would fall every other year ie 81-83 (qual for 1984 Olympics) 85-87 and so on

The WORLD CUP is not to be held every year This event needs some revision we believe It has not turned out to be the event it should be The great weakness is obvious No nation is required to send their top name gymnasts The rule calls for it but it simply does not happen that way It then becomes most difficult for the host nation to advertise a particular champion such as the most recent Olympic or World champion to come to the WORLD CUP and then find that the gymnast is not coming nor is number 2 nor 3 and so on How then does one convice the ticket buying public that it is in fact a WORLD CUP? At any rate the event if modified in some positive ways will be a great annual showcase of world level gymnastics and will no doubt be widely seen on television and by the viewing public in the arenas around the world

Considerable work goes on among the FIG Executive Committee and its subcommittees on equipment finances scheduling and so forth Yuri Titov as President has continued a smooth style of running the meetings and considerable work is accomplished in a relatively few days

There is always some degree of nationalism present in amateur sport This year honestly many of us felt that perhaps the South African Gymnastics Association would lose their membership in the FIG One unfortunately must realize that gymnastics federations sometimes are judged by the governments actions and the world press had carried a number of totally negative reports from that nation during the weeks immediately preceeding the congress in Rome We were all quite surprised but in a genuine way very pleased that the South African Federation retained its membership by an almost 2/3rds majority This we interpret quite candidly as support for gymnasts not even the slightest support for government but real support for our fellow gymnasts South Africa like the U S A is one of the few nations in the world operating a gymnastic association totally free of government support or control Nonetheless the vote was for gymnastics and it was a good one in that sense

Max Bangerter as the tireless Secretary General of the FIG remains firmly in control of the business arrangements and office management of the Federation He is an extremely dedicated and determined man and a credit to the sport and the FIG He will one day I am sure decide to retire from the position but I hope it is many years away and there can be no doubt he will be a most difficult man to replace when that time comes

The Italian Gymnastics Federation was a perfect host They did all possible to make every arrangement for the meeting and as hosts in other ways they are of course among the best in the world Rome is an interesting beautiful city, and the Italian Federation added their own little touch to make it an exceptional 55th Congress

For the USGF
Frank L Bare


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TEAM RESULTS

1.	USA	547.05
2.	West Germany	546.85
3.	Hungary	539.80
4.	France	533.10

Individual Results

1	Grenger	112 15	13	Carter	106 90
2.	**Thomas**	**111.15**	14	Greulich	106 25
3	Boerio	111 00	15	Farkas	106 00
4	Rohrwick	110 95	16	Keleman	105 45
5	Donath	110.35	**17.**	**LaFleur**	**105.30**
6	Grohs	109 50	18	Koloko	104 80
7.	**Conner**	**108.95**	19	Dietze	104 45
7	Kovacz	108 95	20	Ritter	104 15
9.	**Wilson**	**108.70**	21	Bocquel	102 95
10	Banrevi	108 35	22	Boutet	102 55
11.	**Hartung**	**108.10**	23	Horvarth	101 75
12	Boutard	107 75	24	Suty	100 05

TRAVEL AND ARRANGMENTS:

Although there were the usual uncertainties about schedules and difficulties with communication which we must continue to deal with none of these little problems ever developed to the point where they interfered with thorough preparation for competition and concerted competitive effort by all the athletes The U S G F office had done a good job with travel arrangements Armando Vega and Marlene Bene when she arrived hustled and did their best to make sure that all our needs were taken care of The Turner group in Munster which was responsible for most of the arrangements under the direction of their National Federation did a good job They were somewhat lacking in the number of personnel they needed and experience Overall they are to be complimented and thanked for a nice stay and great competition

PRACTICE:

We got to Germany in time to stretch Wednesday September 23rd, tired and without sleep because of travel and the time change so Thursday and Friday were our only real opportunities for practice During Thursday and Friday practice, as well as during warm-ups before the competition there was no schedule of teams or team rotation All four teams practiced and warmed-up at the same time in a free manner as we do in the U S before dual meets and larger meets except for the N C A A Championships As a result our team was spread out during practice and warm-ups On Thursday I asked Paul Ziert and Mas Wantanabe to assist with a vigorous practice session but on Friday and during warm-ups Armando and I handled things alone very easily

Because of our short preparatory time with the athletes we did not suggest any major changes or push coaching advice upon the athletes during this time I took the approach of responding to expressed needs and observed frustrations and tried to avoid any coaching advice which was not easy to understand direct and welcome Those gymnasts who requested more help or were observed to need more or less attention were treated accordingly This seemed to work very well and several gymnasts expressed appreciation for this approach

Practice sessions and warm-ups were spirited and good All indications were that the athlete's minds were at ease, that they were in shape and that we would do well in the competition.

THE COMPETITION:

Jay Whelan was designated as the alternate on Thursday after the practice session When considering past performances in

competition of all the gymnasts concerned it was obvious to me that Jay or Tim LaFleur had to be the alternate. I decided on Jay as the alternate on the basis of the last U S G F meet and the meet in Albuquerque with the C S S R team. Tim had exceeded Jay in these two meets.

Although I had final responsibility for the lineup I accepted considerable advice from Mas Wantanabe. Our philosophies on how the lineup should be set were the same but since he has been keeping a file on our top athletes and has been working with them more directly than I have it was felt that he knew their abilities somewhat more accurately than I did. It s easy to second guess lineups but I believe our only mistake was in underestimating Mike Carter's abilities in a competitive situation and in underestimating the appreciation that judges have for power and strength at the International level.

The judging from my perspective seemed fair although Germany was the only nation involved with a judge on every event. The remaining teams had one judge on three events and the rest of the judges were neutral. To judge accurately one must observe closely and record deductions and since in my position as coach both of these things were impossible I will not comment further than to say that the judging impressed me as being accurate.

The team competed extremely well as a close examination of the scores will indicate. Everyone concentrated hard and was tenacious every minute of the way. Although there were tenths of a point here and there that one always wishes to have back there were only four scores that counted out of the sixty that we had cause to feel disappointed about. These were an 8.25 and an 8.3 on compulsory H B, an 8.6 on optional Rings and an 8.8 on compulsory P B. Overall the team had a high degree of professionalism, desire to achieve and spirit.

To comment further on team unity and "spirit" I must say that it was great for this type of team but I don t believe that team unity in a situation like this can ever compare to that of a college team. Team unity mutual identity empathy with teammates the common goal etc is a product of many things but the most important factor is the amount of time and effort that a group of people have put in together. Teamness is largely proportional to this effort and time put in together and while we can improve in this area we cannot get what we have in our college teams and what other nations have.

Several other tidbits of interest. We had to perform as the first team on Vault, P B and H B in optionals and this was a disadvantage. Also halfway through the optionals the format of the meet was changed from everyone competing, to alternating routines with only one person performing at any one time. This may have been cause for protest and could have interfered with our rhythm (we were competing extremely well) and initially had the gymnasts concerned. I chose not to protest on two counts it seemed like a reasonable change in format if one wanted to run a nice meet, and if our purpose was to be seen in Europe then this would give us a better opportunity to be seen. The team responded to this idea and it was the best thing that could have happened to us since we were extremely impressive on F X and P H. There is no question in my mind that this team was well received.

THE GYMNASTS:

Everyone contributed their share on and off the floor and on the other side of the coin no one distracted from the total effort. They were all extremely conscious of the feelings needs and rights of their teammates the other teams the officials and the people hosting them. They responded to Armando and me in an exemplary and enthusiastic way. In short they were great.

Following the meet I had a short meeting with them to reflect a little and to encourage them on the the World Championships At this meeting I heard no complaints but rather a strong feeling of satisfaction with what we had done and a determination to keep their perspective international in nature I also took the liberty of telling them about the International Relations Committee, the persons on it and how the I R C is concerned with helping and directing their efforts I think they do realize there is a plan a purpose and an organization and perhaps thet they will voice their concerns it they have any to the I R C

COACHING PHILOSOPHY:

The philosophy as carried out on this trip was as I expressed it to the gymnasts in a letter of Novembar 10 1977 "Overall I fully realize that there will be very little If anything that I can do for you during this short trip in the way of real teaching Therefore, you personally have the major responsibility along with your personal coach during the next week and during our short time together to prepare yourself according to your normal training procedures for a meet of great importance Prepare yourself with the discipline and the full pride of a member of the top team that you could ever be on - The United States National Team

"My primary objectives in the way of serving as your team coach will be, First to help facilitate your workouts and meet performance by keeping you informed of workout and meet procedural requirements while allowing maximum flexibility for you to workout and compete as you normally do I want you to be able to concentrate to the utmost with absolutely no distractions, Secondly I wish to, as much as possible, help create a team identity and unity which will help our individual efforts as well as U S gymnastics in Europe This will require procedurally only a small amount of doing things together - such as being ready to workout at the same time traveling as a team marching as a team and in general being considerate of others whom we are depending upon for a strong team effort Most of all team unity and identity is a state of mind and when we realize that we are all representing U S gymnastics then we certainly have a strong bond of responsibility between us to put forth our best individual efforts on and off the competition floor"

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Spend as much time together as a team as is possible with the money available and as our system allows The camps which are now planned should go a long way in improving team identity

SUMMARY:

It was a beneficial trip for all directly involved and for U S gymnastics We achieved our purpose of winning the meet and creating a favorable impression of our men s gymnastic team Further everyone who went will be able to contribute more to our national effort than before because of what was learned

My personal confidence in the I R C is very high and I believe that the elite competitive policies and plans of the I R C will be carried out to the benefit of U S men's gymnastics

Submitted December 8, 1977
Fred Roethlisberger Coach

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Modern Rhythmic Gymnastics World Championships

October 13 - 16, 1977

The team which was to represent the United States at the VII Modern Rhythmic Gymnastics World Championships had been decided upon during the USGF Modern Rhythmic Gymnastics Trial Meet, held on September 17, 1977, in Sacramento California The four gymnasts (Lydia Bree, Kathy Brym, Ivy Kelley and Sue Soffe) together with the coach, Maria Bakos and the chief of delegation and team manager Annelis S Hoyman, arrived on October 4 in Boston Massachusetts to participate in the training camp in preparation for the competition in Switzerland

The training camp was held at Natick Highschool, approximately 35 minutes drive from downtown Boston and lasted just three days The gymnasts and the team officials were housed by parents to gymnasts from the Bay State School of Dance and Gymnastics the director of which Ms Jeanne Sanders was our official hostess

The daily training during camp was scheduled from 9 - 12 in the morning and from 2 - 4 in the afternoon and included group warm-ups conducted by Maria Bakos, individual limbering up and preparation work on elements of routines and finally complete routines Three days seemed to be a rather short time for the training and it was actually cut shorter since the pianist, Mr Rudolph Hadda, through no fault of his arrived a full day later than the team This left only two full days for him to become acquainted with the music for one of the gymnasts who had been unable to work with him previously

An unfortunate accident happened during the very first practice session, as Ivy Kelley, who was number two at the Trial Meet during her first full pivot on one leg twisted her ankle due to improper floor covering The floor of the gymnasium, which was otherwise very well equipped with sufficient height to the ceiling for the throwing of the apparatus and with video tape equipment and a piano was covered with a resolite mat rather than the customary carpet the girls were used to practicing on The surface of the mat made the feet stick to it, so that during turns the body would turn while the foot stopped And before long Lydia Bree stubbed her toe on the same surface and was forced to work very cautiously the rest of the time Ivy was taken for X-rays at the nearby hospital, and after consultation with the orthopedic surgeon it was decided that she would be able to perform in Basel, provided she would keep of her foot for 48 hours

In the meantime the other gymnasts worked diligently but cautiously on their various routines under the guidance of our very fine and capable coach, Maria Bakos Sue Soffe, the Champion of the 1977

Lydia Bree

Modern Rhythmic Gymnastic Competition did a very fine job and looked very good in her performance, she stayed however only for two days with us, as she was to appear in Washington D.C as well as in Madison Square Garden in New York City to demonstrate Modern Rhythmic Gymnastics during the exhibition of the Romanian gymnastics team that was touring the country at that time Sue's demonstration turned out to be a great success, and she received enthusiastic applause from the large crowd for her routines

While at the camp Maria Bakos and Kathy Brym were invited to appear on a regional T V Talk Show in Boston so the workout that morning was cut short their appearance gave us a chance to publicize Modern Rhythmic Gymnastics and the demonstration turned out to be a great success, resulting in many phone calls with inquiries to the Bay State Dance and Gymnastics Association the leader of which had made all the arrangements for the training camp

During the last work-out on Friday afternoon quite a few visitors observed the training session Friday evening was spent sightseeing in downtown Boston together with some of our new-found friends The next day after more sightseeing with one of the host families, the team departed for Basel Switzerland where the games were to be held from October 13 - 16

The team (minus Sue Soffe and the judge, Andrea B Schmid, who were to arrive the following day from New York) arrived in Basel early Sunday afternoon We were a little surprised that nobody was present to meet us, but assumed it was because our plane was late in arriving By way of taxi we went directly to our hotel in order to rest up after the long trip, before perhaps attempting a brief warm-up later in the afternoon At the hotel the manager tried in vain to get in contact with the officials at the St Jakob Sportshalle in order to find out about the training schedules so we decided to take it easy and just get ready for the next day The following morning it was learned that the reason nobody met us at the airport and no information was available to us upon our arrival at the hotel was that the organizing committee had never been informed as to the hotel at which we were to stay Consequently we lost valuable training sessions

The competition was to take place in the beautiful St Jakob Sporthalle, a large sports complex with a very huge exhibition hall the floor area of which was large enough to enclose three regulation size floor areas In addition the complex had an indoor tennis court a beautiful swimming pool several other large gymnasia, numerous auditoriums and lecture halls, beautiful dressing facilities and a large restaurant

Each country was assigned their own dressing room for the duration of their stay in Basel the smaller delegations generally shared room with another nation such as the United States sharing with New Zealand The practice set-up was excellent with each country being allowed two

sessions daily One of these took place in the large competition hall for a total of one hour and fifteen minutes the other in one of the other four training halls available for one hour and twenty minutes The training in the large hall was divided into three sessions of 25 minutes each with 25 minutes for warm ups 25 minutes for work without musical accompaniment and the last period of 25 minutes with music In addition the practice sessions overlapped so that at least two countries could be observed practicing simultaneously in the large hall

The competition itself opened on Thursday October 13 preceded by demonstrations of rhythmic gymnastics with and without apparatus by various age groups and followed by a jazz dance demonstration This demonstration finished with marching in of children of all ages carrying long sticks with round lanterns in white and red color attached When all the children had taken their respective positions in the hall the entire group portrayed a giant Swiss flag made up of the lanterns

After the children had cleared the floor the official opening with entrance of flag-bearers and gymnasts accompanied by their coaches took place The president of the Organizing Committee Ms Verene Scheller - a very dynamic lady who is also the president of the Swiss Women's Gymnastics Federation gave the welcome speech Following the raising of the Swiss flag and the FIG banner the World Championship Games were declared officially opened, and the participating nations marched out again to clear the floor for the first event the group competition

A total of twenty-nine nations with approximately 280 gymnasts were participating in the games but only twenty two countries entered the group competition in which each group of six gymnasts performed with two clubs Many of the routines were exciting with daring exchanges of equipment over long distances from gymnast to gymnast and fast handing of the clubs in the mills Especially impressive were the Bulgarians the Russians and the very young looking group from East Germany The Japanese group had also a very impressive routine performed with excellent technique and daring throws of the clubs However although the crowd seemed to be enthusiastic about them, the Japanese never seemed to be able to score high with the judges

The group routines were performed a second time two days later, and the first ten teams from the first day maintained their places in the upper group with only a slight change in the ranking of the teams

In the individual competition which took place Friday and Saturday each competitor entered two events each day A total of seventy eight individual gymnasts was entered, thanks to the arrangement of always altering the events from rope to hoop to ball to ribbon, the spectators never found time to be bored

After the first day of competition the Russians and the Bulgarians had a clear edge over the rest of the competitors, with Shugurova and Derugina being No 1 and No 2, followed closely by the three Bulgarians, Guiourova, Ganeva and Koltchevska Carmen Rischer of Germany Havlickova of Czechoslovakia and Lehtinen of Canada were also amongst the top performers

The All Around winners were declared after the performances on Saturday As anticipated the Russians and the Bulgarians dominated the competition and took together the first five places The three time Modern Rhythmic Gymnastics Champion of the USSR, Inna Derugina, took first place in the four event contest with an All-Around score of 38 65 closely followed by Galina Shugurova (38 60) and Bulgaria's Kristina Guiourova (38 25) Ganeva of Bulgaria and Kraschenninikova of the USSR tied at 37 80 with Rischer of West Germany only 05 points lower

It was obvious that Shugurova was the darling of the crowd - she had the entire audience cheering her after each event and was called forward time and again Her disappointment in not having the honor of being the All-Around winner was equally obvious to all present when she openly cried on the shoulder of the former great Russian gymnast Yuri Titov who is presently the president of F I G

The American gymnasts two of whom had only competed for two and a half and one year respectively did not do as well as they had hoped However considering the very strong competition and, except for Kathy Brym who had competed in the VI and VII World Championships their inexperience in international competition they did a nice job and we can be proud of them Lydia Bree from California was No 45 and Sue Soffe our National Modern Rhythmic Gymnastics Champion No 47 with 33 10 and 32 90 points All-Around What the United States gymnasts need more than anything else, is a chance for more international competition in between the World Championships

All in all the competition was well arranged with the scheduled time being maintained throughout. On the whole the judging appeared to be fair although the audience once in a while voiced their displeasure by whistling and booing When the former official World Champion from the games in Madrid, Carmen Rischer received her score for her final ribbon routine performance, the Germans immediately demonstrated their disapproval by whistling and booing, and they continued incessantly for over twelve minutes and interrupted the entire competition They finally quit in order to let lovely Havlickova of Czechoslovakia perform but only to resume their booing the minute she had finished her performance Carmen Rischer not only had the unenviable job of following Derugina in every event, due to her much smaller size she had to work so much faster to make exciting routines and the faster speed enhanced the chance for mishaps in terms of loss of equipment and mistakes Eventually Carmen tied with Shugurova for second place in the ribbon event, a place she rightly deserved

Our own Sue Soffe who is a very fine little performer had the similar fate of having to follow Shugurova however the pressure was presumably less on her, since she was not expected to compete on equal footing with Shugurova who has been a top performer for years

The eight best teams as well as the eight best gymnasts from each of the four individual events went on to the finals which took place on Sunday afternoon The eight teams competing were Spain Italy Japan, East Germany (DDR), Canada USSR Bulgaria and Czechoslovakia in order of appearance The Bulgarians who were No 1 after the first contest but No 2 after the second maintained that they were the best team and expected to win Their composition received the highest score the first day, but their score for the second day was lower than that given for both the

RESULTS

POS	NAME	Country	Rope	Hoop	Ball	Ribbon	All Around
1.	Derugine	SOV	9.50	9.60	9.85	9.70	38 65
2.	Shugurove	SOV	9.70	9.60	9.75	9.55	38 60
3	Guiourova	BUL	9 55	9 50	9 70	9.50	38 25
4	Geneve	BUL	9 60	9 40	9.40	9 40	37 80
5	Kraschenninikove	SOV	9.40	9 55	9 80	9 05	37 80
6	Rischer	ARF	9 35	9 20	9 55	9 85	37 75
7.	Zaveske	TCH	9 70	9 45	9 30	9.25	37 70
8	Koltchevske	BUL	9.40	9 50	9 55	9.05	37 50

Russian and the Czechoslovakian compositions. With the final contest the Russians were No. 1, Bulgana No. 2, and Czechoslovakie No. 3 e place they definitely deserved. The Czechoslovakian routine was perhaps not as exciting as the Bulgarians' but their execution and style were beautiful and in my opinion not valued high enough. The Canadian group deserved a higher rating as well, but was consistently judged fo be No. 8 on the last day they scored better than both Italy and Spain but thia could not offset the too low marks ot the first day in particular. Their movements were pure precise, esthetically pleasing. However once again for the sixth time we listened to the Russian National Anthem.

After the closing ceremonies immediately following the competition, all participants of the World Championship Games were brought by special trams to the farewell dinner party which was held in a small nearby village. Upon arrival at the village we were greeted by the village folks with a forch light parade and as we all marched through the cobblestoned straets of the vilage we were greeted by the folks who either stood at the curb or hung out trom their windows. After circling the little church we all gathered at a beautiful hall and dining complex where we were seated together with our hostesses who had been assisting ue all week. The Swiss Federation had gone all out fo make it a festive event for us the tables were beautifully set with pretty decoratons at aach place and a pretty Swiss embroidered handkerchief for each person. the entertainment consisted of Swiss Alpine horn playing, yodeling, flag-waving etc. etc. The team members and the judge trom each country had the day before received e lovely gift in the form of a beautiful beauty-box with various sample gifts inside from the Organizaing Committee. at the banquet the coach and the manager from each country together with their hostess were called up on the platform and presented with a lovely Swiss-made sporty wrist watch.

It was quite late when we returned fo Basel thet night, our group took leave of one enother since all ot the participants except the manager were to remain in Europe, either to go on to the Modern Rhythmic Gymnastics Festival to be held in West Germany a tew days later, or to go sightseeing in Europe.

All in all our participation in the world championships and our stay in Switzerland was an enjoyable and memorable experience for gymnasts as well as the rest of the delegation and we look forward to the next international Modern Rhythmic Gymnastics gathering, here or abroad.

Dr. Annelis Strange Hoyman

Ivy Kelley

MRG UPDATE

In my last report in this Bulletin, I closed with a very upbeat note about the growth of Modern Rhythmic Gymnastics in the U.S.A. Since then we have received continued encouragement and have received reinforcement of this very optimistic outlook. Let me share what I have voted from my ventage point.

- The Final Trials for the World Championship held at CSU-Sacramento was a resounding success. The organization prepared by Meet Director, Barbara Parcher was superb, the competitors displayed vastly improved performances and the stands were packed wifh spectators.
- The number ot sanction requests for clinics and meets has greatly improved over last year.
- The interest in MRG at the USGF Congress, both in our sessions end outside the sessione remarkably improved over the previous Congress. It was surprising to learn how many Congress attendees were unfamiliar with exactly what Modern Rhythmic Gymnastics is all about. This means we must provide even the most basic information about MRG. It also means that we have a large untapped source of participants from the gymnastic community just waiting in the wings.
- I am especially pleased to be attending the FIG Congress in Rome as it is the firet time the USA will have a MRG delegate at this Congress.
- We anticipate inviting a current internationally outstanding coach and/or competitor for clinics possibly next summer. I hope this can be tied down at the FIG Congress.
- The next big move and probably the number one priority for all coaches and Regional and State Chairmen should be the development of our Group Competition. This competition has greet spectator appeal. We heve communicated to Frank Bare that the U.S. must be represented in this competition et the next World Championships in 1979. Mr. Bere

Sue Soffe

indicated that there is a possibility that MRG may be able to use the Olympic Training Sites The implications of this on the real possibility of getting a Group together for the required relatively long period of time in an excellent facility without concern for housing and feeding costs are beyond our recent dreams As soon es the hand apparatus is decided upon at the FIG Congress, every active Region should work to be represented with at least one Group at the USGF National Championships We cannot wait until 1979 to to this!

- When our National Champion Sue Soffe, appeared on the program at Madison Square Garden with the Bulgarian team end selected U S gymnasts, it was no surprise to us to read the following in a N Y Times review of the program

"Perhaps the most captivating performance was the rhythmic gymnastics of an American 17 yearold Sue Soffe of Agoura, California who in neon-bright leotards danced elegantly around her props of rope, ball, hoop and ribbon"

I hope you agree that all ot the above rings ot optimism

For those currently involved or interested in Modern Rhythmic Gymnastics the following is for your information

1 The new 1976 English MRG Code of Points is now available through the USGF office

2 The 1978 USGF National MRG Championships will be held in the greater Boston Area on May 20 1978 Out hosts are Jean and Michael Buzzi Gymnastics Junction, Inc 411 Waverly Oaks Road Waltham Mass 02154 Tel (617) 893-2009

3 The events for the National Championships will be the same as those to be selected for the 1979 World Championships The hand apparatus to be used will be selected at the FIG Congress in Rome at the end of November

4 The MRG Judges Certification Test Program is underwey For further information, contact Dr Andrea B Schmid Women's Physical Education San Francisco State College, San Francisco CA 94132

5 Add this to your specifications for the dimensions of the Ribbon handle

Form cylindrical or conical (tapered)

Diameter maximum ot 1 cm where held Free end of handle can be covered with a light layer of non slip material, but only over a maximum of 10 cm

Kathy Brym

6 It is very important that coaches and gymnasts measure their equipment to be sure that it meets official specificetions Do not assume that purchasing thru a reliable manufacturer means that every piece of apparatus is exactly correct Measure!!

7 1979 World Championships to be held in West Germany

8 A complete Resource Materials List should be available very shortly through the USGF office This will include an up-to-dete list of MRG records, books equipment suppliers and films

There will be no supplement to the Measurement & Dimensions book, instead this book is being rewritten in Switzerland As soon as we receive the new edition, notification of availability will be in The GYMNASTICS NEWS.

MRG FUTURE EVENTS

At the recent meeting of F.I.G. in Rome, Italy, it was decided that the next world Championships for Modern Rhythmic Gymnastics will take place in Great Britain in 1979. Individual competition will include work with rope, ball, clubs and ribbon, the group competition will be performed with the hoop

The European Championships will be held in Spain in 1978, in order to give countries outside of Europe a chance for more international competition, it was decided to hold an international competitive meeting in Canada in October 1978, to which these countries will be invited.

The annual Maple Leaf Meet will take place in Toronto, Ontario, in June 1978

For the United States National Modern Rhythmic Gymnastics Championships, which will be held on May 19-20, 1978 at Bentley College in Waltham, Mass the individual competition will include work with rope, ball, clubs and ribbon. However, there will also be a separate competition (individual) with the hoop, in order to be able to find gymnasts eligable for participation in the group routine for hoops, in the hope that the United States can sand a team to the next World Championships The competition with the hoop will not be included in the calculations for the All-Around Score

Annelis S Hoyman

STATLER RECORDS PRESENTS

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Registration. 7:30 A M April 9th, Hotel Roosevelt, New York City Classes start at 9 A M. Coaches and Teachers $25 00 (including free notes to work tought), Gymnasts (Students) $15 00, Observers $5 00

Coaches and teachers bringing eight gymnasts (students) admitted free

For more information write or call:
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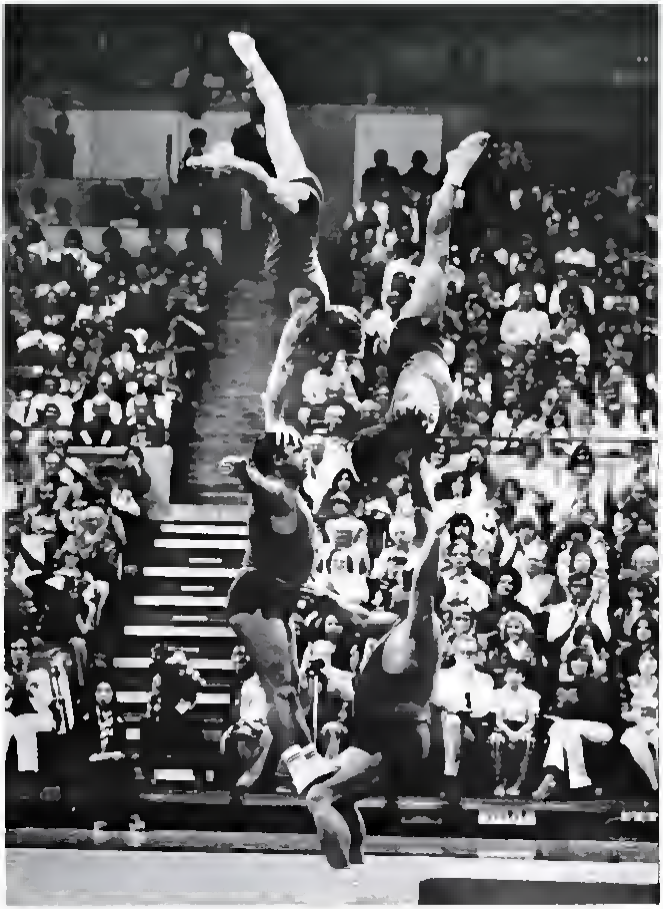
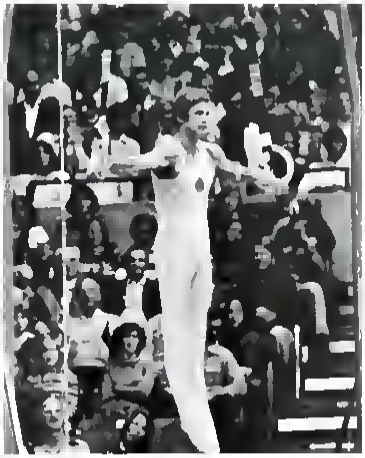
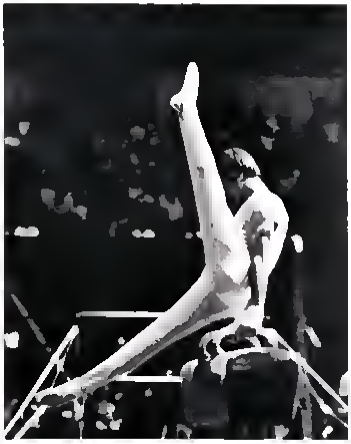
SUNDAY–APRIL 9, 1978 · HOTEL ROOSEVELT · NEW YORK CITY





USSR TOUR



The USSR mens and womens gymnastics teams together with some of their outstanding acrobats and tumblers made a brief tour of the USA, in connection with their appearance at the Soviet Trade fair in Los Angeles. It would have been a great success but it was somewhat destroyed before it ever got off the ground. What with the initial announcement that the ever popular Olga Korbut and the Gold medal winner Nelli Kim would both be in the delegation many arenas sought them and the ticket buying public was ready. When the team arrived in Washington however no Nelli Kim and no Olga Korbut and then the cancellations began. San Francisco dropped the show NBC dropped the TV and so on and so on. The team was a good one. Nicolai Andrianov as Olympic all-around champion demonstrated clearly that he is the best male gymnast in the world and the other team members performed well and entertained as well as promoted gymnastics. It was simply that the public was told that Nelli and Olga were coming and when the announcement was made that they didn't come at all it just looked as if the event was virtually off.

The tour continued with some quickly added stops and some rather small crowds in several areas. Those who came to see the show were greatly impressed. The box office suffered because of those who did not come at all and the latter unfortunately outnumbered the former.

So the report on the USSR Tour of late 1977 is necessarily brief. The performances of those who came were truly outstanding and the public was receptive to their efforts. We remain disappointed because we do not fully understand why at least one of the two girls did not come. We understand that Nelli was ill, and such things can occur but Olga did not come and we understand she was ready and anxious to visit us once again. Rick Appleman who promoted the tour for the USGF, summed it up after two long, very long weeks of trying to answer a lot of questions that were not his to answer. "the age of the really big gymnastics exhibition tours began with Olga and the Soviet gymnasts, and now it appears that just as they started this trend, so too have they ended it."

The American public we believe is ready now for bona-fide competitions of the highest quality we can provide them, and that is the direction the USGF wishes to turn. We will invite our Soviet friends to compete with us in years to come. USSR vs USA and look forward to their appearance here in the USA. The tours have for the moment come to an end and they have been good for gymnastics, but perhaps all things change and so we will move onto the next phase which we hope will be bigger and better for all concerned.

F. Bare/USGF

CZECHOSLOVAKIA-U.S.A.

U.S.A. vs. Czechoslovakia Junior Team Competition
November 12 - Albuquerque (Exhibition meet)
November 15 - Tucson (Official meet)

The U.S.A./Czechoslovakian competitions proved to be a most rewarding experience for all of those who participated and were involved with the United States Junior Team. As coach, I was dedicated to developing a close group unity in keeping with the national team concept in preparation for future world competitions. I was not disappointed in this process as the cooperation and enthusiasm of the gymnasts and coaches in attendance was entirely conducive to the total team effort.

The meet in Albuquerque proved to be a very educational experience for us. With six falls off the beam and three more in floor exercise we lost the meet by a scant .4 after leading by 1.8 after bars! This had a great motivational effect on us and we went to Tucson determined to work the "bugs" out. Our workouts in Tucson were the "down to business" type with about two hours per day devoted to beam. The girls were extremely diligent and serious about the workouts and there was little doubt in my mind that they were set to make up for the loss in New Mexico.

The official meet in Tucson was one of the most exciting of my life. Jayne Weinstein, one of our strongest gymnasts, was unable to compete after vaulting due to an arm injury and we had to go with five girls for the next three events. The girls worked like a well oiled machine through bars, beam and floor and we finished the evening 2.8 ahead of the Czechs and only one fall during the entire competition. The girls worked like a team, acted like a team, performed like a team and enjoyed the results of this effort with a very satisfying team score in their first international experience.

Gymnast evaluation: In general, Kardos, Chapman, McCoy, Caselio and Weinstein were very cooperative, hard working and mature in their attitude and performance. They listened attentively, were very coachable, and maintained a "fighting spirit" until the final score was flashed. I don't think there are five finer young gymnasts to associate with in this country. They were congenial, enthusiastic, and entirely dedicated to the success of our team. I was proud and honored to be their coach for this series of competitions.

Colleen Michaels injured her ankle during our first workout in Albuquerque and was unable to participate again until we trained in Tucson. She was scheduled to be in the second competition but I was doubtful of her participation after she was injured. Her ankle healed up quite readily however, and she was able to train for the meet in Tucson.

I would like to express my appreciation over the selection of Patsy Wester as assistant coach and chaperone. She is an excellent organizer and helper and totally dedicated to the program and the girls. She spent several hours before our first workout in Albuquerque making up a team warm-up

WOMEN - Tucson

	Team Total
USA	**184.75**
CSSR	**181.95**

Individual Results

1.	**Chapman, USA**	**37.35**
1.	**Kardos, USA**	**37.35**
3.	**McCoy, USA**	**37.25**
4.	**Cassello, USA**	**36.90**
4	Mareckova, CSSR	36.90
6	Vajdisova, CSSR	36.65
7.	Zelinkova, CSSR	36.35
8	Zemanova, CSSR	35.95
9	**Michaela, USA**	**35.90**
10	Charvatova, CSSR	35.35
11	Labakova, CSSR	35.25
12.	**Weinstein, USA/Injured**	**8.80**

drill to music which the girls learned and we used at the start of each practice and competition. Sha was diligent end helpful in the practices and competitions keeping track of the floor music, helping the girls with their dance connections, and keeping an up-to-the-minute diary of all the proceedings. She is a delightful person and was a total asset to this experience.

Two other coaches of individual gymnasts were in attendance. Tom Jones (Kelly McCoy) and Danny Warbutton (Linda Kardos) were present at the workouts and competitions. (Warbutton went home after Albuquerque). Their presence at no time was a detriment to maor the gymnasts. They were extremely cooperative and did not interfere with any of my decisions regarding workouts, spotting, lineup, etc. On occasion I would ask them for advice or suggestions concerning their individual gymnasts which they were happy to give. They were encouraging and supportive at all times and added further to the rewarding experience we all shared.

In conclusion I would like to express my gratitude to the gymnasts, coaches, the FRC and everyone connected with this experience. I believe it is a very notable start for our Junior Team program and I am more excited than ever ebout the future of our sport at the international leval.

Jim Gault, Coach
U.S.A. vs Czechoslovakia
November, 1977

MEN - Albuquerque

	Team Total
USA	**540.90**
CSSR	**539.30**

Individual Results

1.	**Wilson, USA**	**110.35**
2.	**Garrard, USA**	**109 20**
3.	**LaFlaur, USA**	**108 40**
4	Tannenberger, CSSR	108 20
5	Tabak, CSSR	107 65
5	Konecny, CSSR	107 65
7.	**Whalan, USA**	**107.30**
8	Koldovsky, CSSR	106 85
9	Zoulik, CSSR	106 45
10	Fic, CSSR	105 75
11.	**Genovese, USA**	**103.85**
12.	**Staphanaon, USA/Injured**	********

PROMOTING & PROTECTING GYMNASTICS

Continued from November–December issue of GYMNASTICS NEWS

With the obstacles facing the sport, how do you promote gymnastics? Will schools consider the benefits of the sport rather than over-react and eliminate the program because of potential hazards? Will coaches consider the safety of gymnastics in teaching advanced difficulties? Will the National Federation and its rules bodies insist on better communication and improved efforts by the manufacturers in their production of apparatus?

To promote the sport, manufacturers are safety conscious to the point of labeling all equipment with the proper instructions for use and the importance of adequate supervision.

The manufacturers are providing free clinics across the country to foster sound teaching and spotting techniques.

Equipment company representatives are considering "a no fault system" for product liability. The insurance companies would pay on a no fault basis. According to Jeffery O'Connell, University of Illinois Law Professor, who authored the no fault auto insurance he says "people who are injured should be paid regardless of whether they are at fault or whether the product is defective." Manufacturers would not be spending 60 percent of the insurance dollar on legal fees and insurance overhead. Instead those individuals permanently injured would receive the money.

Manufacturers have also gone to the Congress and testified before a small business committee. Robert Begam, President of the Association of Trial Lawyers of America, says that the interpretation has been relayed incorrectly. The doctrine of strict liability means only that if the claimant can establish injury was directly caused by a defect in the product existing at time of sale, is there cause for suit.

Senator Pearson from Kansas of the United States Senate Commerce Committee introduced a bill, the National Product Liability Act, that would establish programs standards and procedures for determining responsibilities and liabilities arising out of product related injuries

The manufacturers and private club owners have formed the United States Gymnastics Safety Association to assure the public that gymnastics does not have to be considered a dangerous sport if safe equipment is used by qualified instructors and coaches Again the emphasis is certification of personnel and improved supervision

The United States Gymnastic Safety Association states that 99% of the value of trampolining for physical fitness can be accomplished without somersaults

The United States Gymnastic Safety Association is promoting Gymnastics by

1) Attempting to reduce accidents and their severity,
2) By providing an independent professional recognition system of those actually qualified to instruct safety, and
3) By proving to insurance companies and school administrators that gymnastics has a positive safety program

The United States Gymnastic Safety Association has associated itself with the American Red Cross to lend instant credibility to their efforts

With budgetary cut backs more and more programs to finance and less and less qualified coaches to employ, and since the schools cannot seem to eliminate sports without community pressure or court intervention, existing programs are safe

The school districts do have a responsibility to provide training workshops for their coaches to insure safety and sound gymnastic technique

The National Federation rules bodies have promoted the sport by continually revising their rules to safeguard the gymnast

Their establishment of equipment specifications and their development of guidelines to evaluate new equipment, has assisted us in our attempt to make the manufacturers aware of high school needs and limitations in purchasing equipment and employing certified coaches

If you want to protect and promote gymnastics for boys and girls you must act now

Stop the sue syndrome

Correct the product liability crisis

Write your legislator

Accidents can happen

Do you know what the alternative is to sports, the automobile

Compare gymnastic injuries to the spinal and death rates connected to the automobile And yet we don t eliminate cars!

Protect gymnastics—promote legislation to save the sport

MRG
New F.I.G. Brevet

Ms. Norma Zabka
New York

INTERNATIONAL EVENTS 1978

		Men	Women
Feb. 3	Japan-USA, Men	6	
Feb. 6	Japan-USA, Women		6
Feb. 19 - March 3	Sanlam Cup	1	1
March 8-16	American Cup	2	2
March 28 - April 7	Moscow & Riga	3	3
April 78	Romanian Invitational	1	1
April 13 - 16	Champions All	1	1
April 10 - 18	Canada Cup	3	3
June 7 - 12	Golden Sands	2	2
June 6 - 16	Antibes & Orleans		3
July 20 - 30	Intl. Tng. Camp France/Men	10	
August 78	NHK Cup Japan		2
Oct. 15 - 30	World Championships	7	7
Nov. 16 - 20	Barcelona Invitational	1	1
Nov. 78	Chunichi Cup	1	1
Dec. 78	British Invitational	3	3

MEET RESULTS

1st Elite Qualifying Meet
East Stoudsburg, PA

Christi Canary	74.50	Linda Tardiff	72.40
Donna Kemp	74.40	Jeanine Creek	72.35
Marcia Frederick	74.10	Jody Kline	72.20
Sharon Shapiro	74.05	Shari Smith	71.95
Lisa Cawthron	73.90	Joanne Beitz	71.85
Karen Lemond	73.45	Heidi Anderson	71.75
Marcy Levine	73.25	Gayle Anderson	71.65
Pam Turner	73.20	Sheri Donaldson	71.65
Heidi Croeber	73.15	Ann Woods	71.45
Jenny Huff	72.90	Nicki Dsaba	70.95
Julie Goewey	72.75	Heidi Ulhorn	70.85
Liz Marino	72.70	Doreen Marcks	68.70
Pam Lea	72.65	Judy Johnson	35.90
Jackie Chagnovich	72.45		

2nd Elite Qualifying Meet
Lubbock, Texas

Leslie Russo	73.65	Heidi Croeber	71.05
Marcia Frederick	72.95	Jennifer Huff	70.90
Colleen Casey	72.90	Jeannie Creek	70.75
Linda Tardiff	72.35	Ann Woods	70.65
Donna Kemp	72.15	Pam Turner	70.60
Liz Marino	72.15	Marcy Levine	70.50
Beth Johnson	71.70	Julie Goewey	70.45
Andra Turner	71.70	Joanna Beitz	68.75
Lisa Cawthron	71.65	Jody Kline	68.35
Shannon Coleman	71.55	Robin Huebner	00.00
Debbi Fuhrman	71.30		

WORLD CUP

Men's Competition

Judging an International Meet is quite an experience - not only for the opportunity to see the best gymnasts and tricks in the world but also to see the unusual workings of International Judging and country loyalty

I arrived at Oviedo with a participating group of four others two girl contestants their male coach and a Women's Judge Our only qualified male performer Kurt Thomas was uneble to attend due to an injury

At our first judges meeting (which was conducted solely in German and French) I met Mr Titov President of the International Gymnastic Federation He informed me that normally if a country does not have a competitor - it cannot have a judge However since I had traveled so fer, I would be allowed to judge the preliminaries

The competition was outstanding with the Russians taking 1 2,3 in the All Around 1 Andrianov - 57 45 2 Marleov - 57 4 3 Tkatchev - 57 35 1/10th of a point separating all three men

I must not have hurt anyone's feelings as I was selected to judge three events in the finals - I was a neutrel judge - right! I also am a fair judge and that is where the problems began Nikolay of RDA performed only fair and each judge gave a score of 9 3 We were called in by the superior judge and informed that our scores were too low I said, 'All of us agree that this was not a good routine and because all of our scores were 9 3 there would be no changes ' The superior judge said O K ' but as we turned to go back to our seats he had the other judges change their score to 9 4 Later in the competition on Valuting Adrianov who was leading was having trouble warming up his second vault In the competition after his first vault, which was an excellent 9 7, he changed his second vault and did a Cartwheel tuck back which I was about to score 9 0 - 9 1 However, once again the superior judge called us in and said Each of you should give at least 9 2 ' I said I would not score the vault that high as I wes at 9 0 or 9 1 He said 'Mr Todd you give 9 1 all other judges give 9 2 ' (I was thrown out of the score again!) It is very interesting to find out how international judging is conducted

In the individual events the top competitors were outstanding Andrianov s double back lay-out on floor exercise Markelov s excellent 9 8 routine on Pommel Horse Once again a double lay-out on Rings by Andrianov Excellent ½ in ½ out vaults on Long Horse On parallel bars De la Salle s streddle mount to high doubles to a Russian Moore around both bars was outstanding High Bar was the greatest event of the competition with the new reverse hecht vault by Andrianov and Markelov and the fantastic fly away ½ twist regrab by Gienger

Eberhard Gienger was the most popular male gymnast ot the competition because ot his friendly smile and the time he took with each person he came in contact with He speaks several languages and always had a smile for everyone even after he only tied for first on the high bar with an average score for both nights of 9 8!

All in all this was a valuable experience for me I'm only sorry that we had no male representation at this important meet and I hope that we never heve an unfortunate situation like that again as it hurt our image with many ot the other countries

Results

Men's Competition

		Total
1.	Andrienov, USSR	57.45
1.	Markelov, USSR	57.45
3.	Tketchev, USSR	57.35
4.	Kato, JPN	56.65
5.	Glengar, W. GERM.	56.60
5.	Bruckner, DDR	56.60
7.	Kejiyama, JPN	56.20
8	Delesalle, CAN	56.10
9	Doneth, HUNG	56.00
10	Nikoley, DDR	55.70
11.	Bretscher, SWITZ	55.50
12.	Berthel, DDR	55.25
13.	Tebak, TCH	54.95
14.	Boerio, FRA	54.30
15	Tennenberger, TCH	54.10
15	Deltchev, BUL	54.10

The World Cup Competition was held in Onieda Spain October 26, 29 and 30th, 1977 In the Women s Competition there were 16 competitors from seven countries Lisa Cawthron and Denise Cheshire represented the United States The first round of competition for the Women was held on Saturday October 29 with the top 8 in each avent qualifying for the finals on Sunday

In general the American girls performed well Lisa hit every routine scoring 9 25 on uneven bars 9.20 on balance beam 9 3 on floor exercise and 9 7 on vaulting Her uneven bar and beam routines were solid but lecked the virfuosity needed for a higher score Her performance on floor was of the highest caliber and should have scored higher based on scores given equal routines The most exciting part ot the competition was Lisa s first veult which was a front hendspring 1½ forward somersault It wes performed with excellent form and technique She stuck the landing with very little bend in the knees The only deduction which should have been made was for lack of distance in the afterflight It was the bast veult performance in the competition The 9 7 score tied her tor 2nd place going into the finals In the finals she fell to her hands on the front handspring 1½ front somersault for an 8 9 score and failed to change the number of her vault for the second jump It was a good tucked Tsukahara which scored 8 9 after the 5 deduction tor calling the wrong vault It was very disappointing for all the Americans there but most of all for Lisa She ended up in 8th place on vaulting and her all-around total of 37 45 earned her a tie for 8th

Denise began the competition with vaulting and scored a 9 5 on a very good tucked Tsukahara Her beam performance was outstanding until a slight mental slip on the back extension roll caused a fall Even with a fall she scored 9 0 For floor exercise she received a 9 3 Her downfall came on uneven bars where a fall during the routine and on the dismount cost her 1 0 off for a score of 8 2 This low of a score knocked her out of the running in the all-around On vault she was tied for 8th but did not compete in the finals as the other gymnast had a higher all around total

Results
Women's Competition

		Total
1.	Filatova, USSR	38 95
2	Kraker, DDR	38 45
3	Shaposhnikova, USSR	38 20
4	Egarvari, HUNG	38 10
5	Mukhina, USSR	37 95
6	Cerna, TCH	37 80
7	Grigoras, ROU	37 75
8.	**Cawthron, USA**	**37.45**
8	Muller, HUNG	37 45
10	Schalk, DDR	37 40
11	Truska, ROU	37 15
11	Sabau, ROU	37 15
13	Kurnjuwert, W GERM	37 10
14	Lickova, TCH	36 75
15.	**Cheshire, USA**	**36.00**

The most outstanding gymnasts in the competition were the three Russian girls and Steffi Kraker from East Germany Maria Filatova was 1st all-around with 38 95 In vaulting she performed a Tsukahara layout for 9 6 and a Tsukahara with a full twist for 9 7 She finished in 2nd place with a 19 35 score On uneven bars she was second with a 9 725 She won floor exercise with an average of 9 85 On balance beam she had one fall and a major break in finals which earned her an 8 9 and a tie for 5th place

Steffi Kraker was 2nd all-around with a total of 38 45 She was 5th in vault, 3rd on uneven bars second on balance beam and tied for 2nd in floor All of her routines were very precise and performed with excellence Her floor exercise routine was especially outstanding in composition The tumbling was of the highest difficulty with a double full a front and back combination series finishing with a layout The dance was interesting original and very well performed I felt the East German girls had the most outstanding floor routines in the area of composition

Third place all-around was won by Natalia Shapochnikova with a total of 38 20 In a very short time this young girl should be one of the Soviet Union s best She has beautiful movements with the potential for the ultimate in style She already is performing the most difficult skills on all the apparatus She won vaulting with a 9 7 average performing a layout Tsukahara and then a full twisting layout Tsukahara On uneven bars she is doing handstand slalder handstand giant swing to handstand She still has some problems with control of her back and compositionally her routine is not balanced but it shows outstanding originality She has only one move on the low bar and the remainder of the routine is on the high bar Her balance beam routine is also very original with the highest of difficulty She did not make the finals as she fell on her double back pike dismount She was fourth on floor exercise with a fall at the end of the double back

Elena Mukhina ended up in 5th place all-around but had a great deal of difficulty in vaulting and floor exercise She had falls in both of these events so only made the finals in beam and uneven bars She won beam with an average of 9 65 and uneven bars with an average of 9 8 Her two most interesting moves on bars were the back flip catch with full twist and a hecht dismount with a full twist It appeared that the judges did not take off for the 1 2 second stop in a squat position on the high bar prior to the flip with the full twist Except for that major break in rhythm the routine was outstanding Her beam routine had a lot of high difficulty which she performed very well however it definitely lacked in originality and composition It had one leap one turn and one jump Everything else was tumbling most of which stemmed from the back walkover back handspring combination The rhythm was poor with stops before the standing back flip and before the dismount She also performed the double back somersault dismount

It appears from the scores received by the Russians that stops before very difficult tumbling are being allowed and that if you can do a double back on floor on a beam dismount a standing back on beam and a back handspring series on beam then you are assured of being at the top On floor and beam they all three did basically the same routine The back handspring and back flip on beam got to be very boring as most every girl competing did one or the other Many did one several times or both Filatova had a 2-3 second stop before both back handspring combinations on beam and the same before the double back series on floor She performed a double back tuck at the beginning of the routine and a double back pike at the end Her other tumbling series was a flic-flac full flic-flac full Shaposhnikova s floor routine showed more in terms of originality and variety in composition and as such was more interesting and pleasing to watch If would be a shame to have Women s floor and beam routines be reduced to nothing but tumbling by not deducting for lack of balance in structure groups as well as repetition of elements

All in all it was a good competition and a worthwhile trip I am sure we all learned from the experience Thanks to the Spanish Gymnastic Federation and the U S G F for making it possible

Delene Darst
U S A Judge

STEPHANIE WILLIM

It's Over !

At just 13 Stephanie Willim must retire and she s heartbroken So are U S Olympic Team gymnastic coaches

Doctors have discovered she has a back problem Continuing in her sport doctors say means she could develop a limp have to resort to a wheelchair later in life or even become paralyzed

The Bethesda girl is a national junior elite class athlete who was one of America s brightest hopes for the 1980 Moscow Olympic games

"It's all over for her" said coach Greg Weiss of his 4-foot-11 66-pound pupil

Her mother said Stephanie responded to the bad news saying "I'm very willing to accept the facts I don t want to be in a wheelchair But I hurt for the United States because they depend on me so "

The problem surfaced several months ago when the pain began Some mornings it was so bad Stephanie could not dress herself

Nevertheless she continued training while her parents watched anxiously and doctors monitored her back.

Some 10 physicians were consulted and they all concluded Stephanie's problem was in the lower back there was an abnormal space between two vertebrae or a piece of bone missing

The bad news finally was complete when Stephanie visited California to see world-famous orthopedic specialist Dr Robert Kerlan who gave the final notice - retire or risk paralysis

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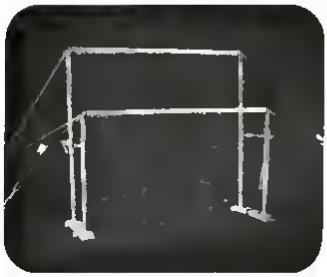

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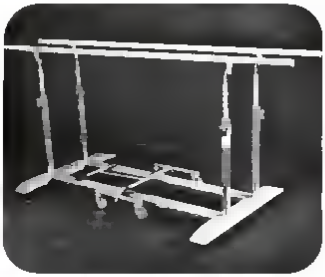

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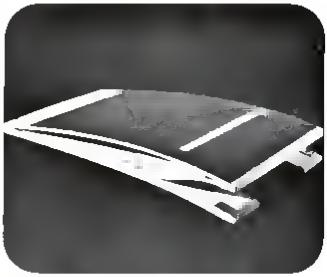

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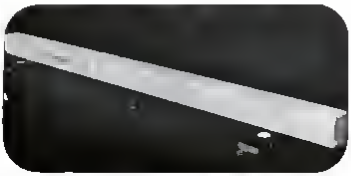

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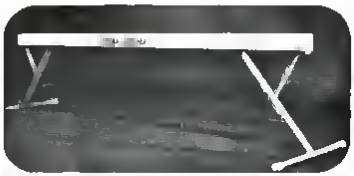

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Above left to right:
Merilyn Chapman, Jim Hartung, Linda Kardos, Mike Wilson, Kelly McCoy, and Bert Conner.

MEN'S REPORT

Since our seven top Male Gymnasts were involved in the very important Quadrangular Meet in Muenster, Germany it was decided that the top three finalists in the Optionals at Muenster would remain in Europe for about a week and prepare to represent the United States in the 1st Coca Cola International Gymnastics Meet in Brighton, England, December 6 and 7. The top three were Kurt Thomas, Bart Conner and Jim Hartung. Kurt decided to decline this competition hence Mike Wilson who had finished 4th Optionally was included on the Team.

For our week of training we were very lucky to get invited to one of the main German Sports School in Frankfurt. The three Gymnasts, Mas Watanabe, the delegation leader, and I were housed in a very nice hotel which is a part of the sports school. Wow, the facilities were unbelieveable — We certainly have a lot of work to do to bring our facilities up to the level of this school — We have nothing in this country which accomodates the needs of our Gymnasts in the way this German school does!

The first two days in Frankfurt were used to recuperate both physically and psychologically from the competition in Muenster. After all, the Muenster experience had been incredible — We had gone there to win and we won!!! Nevertheless it was not long before these three Gymnasts were focusing in on the English meet and starting to survey our chances — What would be reasonable goals for them individually and as a Team.

This meet was to be quite unusual. The U.S. Team would be comprised of 3 Male and 3 Female Gymnasts. The Team score would be computed using the top 2 Men's and top 2 Women's scores per event. The Russians, Hungarians and Polish had entered Teams we felt we could handle all but possibly the Russians — But who would the Russians send??? We needed that information before we could solidify our Team's goals.

Friday, December 2, we departed Frankfurt arriving in Brighton, England late that night (For a change we were the first delegation to arrive!!!) December 3-5, we trained in the Brighton Convention Center where the competition was to be held. The Center was beautiful but certainly not designed for Gymnastics Competition. The floor was cement with a tile covering — H-A-R-D. The matting was not sufficient even after we had requested and received twice the mats they had thought were necessary!

The British Amateur Gymnastics Association had definitely gone all out for this meet. There were many receptions and banquets, all were expectedly planned and well executed.

TEAM RESULTS	1.	USSR	185.95
	2.	**USA**	**184.15**
	3.	Hungary	181.10
	4.	Great Britain	179.95
	5.	Poland	176.90
	6.	Norway	175.05
	7.	Canada	185.05

Men	1	Fedorenko, USSR	110.05
	2	Achesov, USSR	110.00
	3	Lev, USSR	109.65
	4.	**Wilson, USA**	**109.60**
	5.	**Hertung, USA**	**109.00**
	6	Arnold, G.B.	105.25
	7	Erdelyi, HUN	105.15
	8	Lesok, POL	104.55
	9	Petersen, NOR	104.50
	10	Meszaros, HUN	103.65

Finally the Competition. It had been decided that no two performances would be shown at the same time so obviously the meet was a lengthy one. Three hours and forty-five minutes to be exact. Our three Men performed very well considering the conditions. Unquestionably we were the class and best on floor exercise, pommel horse, vaulting and parallel bars. (On parallel bars we had several minor breaks which hurt our score but not our general impression on that event.) However the Russians three Gymnasts did show exceptional skills and routines on high bar and rings.

Additionally Bart was one of the seven or eight Gymnasts who had picked up ankle injuries which would eliminate him from the individual competition the next day. Both Mike and Jim although not specifically injured, certainly felt like they had boxed 2 or 3 minutes with Ali.

We definitely must work toward more protection for our athletes. The conditions for this Men's Competition were certainly not at a level to encourage top performances.

Nevertheless the three American Boys finished only 1.6 behind the Russians with Mike Wilson 4th, Jim Hartung 5th and Bart Conner 6th. (Check individual event scores below!) Our Girls had only lost to the Russian Girls by several tenths, so we Americans could feel great, having won 2nd place as a Team, but more importantly having shown that we are becoming competitive with the great Russian program.

The next day Wednesday, December 7, brought on the individual all around finals. As earlier stated, Bart had been withdrawn as a result of an ankle injury, but Mike and Jim were ready to charge the Russians. Both Gymnasts performed very well and when the chalk cleared Mike had remained 4th only .05 from a Bronze Medal and Jim had held 5th by a sizeable margin.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

All in all, this was a great experience for our young Gymnasts. We definitely were able to show the countries who were represented that we are now very serious about our Gymnastics. Many, many questions were put to me concerning our Age Group Developmental Program. Specific questions not social once. Even the Russians have noted a change in U.S. attitude and performance. We must continue to push this idea of a serious and well organized gymnastics program to help elevate our status in the World Gymnastics Community.

WOMEN'S REPORT

We were welcomed to Brighton by representatives of the B A G A after traveling by van from Heathrow Airport and presented with traveling bags t-shirts and other assorted gifts

The next day (Dec 5) we practiced at the center during the morning hours and then toured the very interesting and picturesque shopping area in Brighton The practice session was productive and the girls did not seem to show any negative effects from the expected jet lag That evening we attended the Mayor s reception at the center and rubbed elbows with all the local dignitaries

The meet format for both nights of competition was briefly as follows There were three rotation groups with two men s and two women s teams in each group Gymnasts performed in a pre-determined rotation order man woman man woman etc With so many gymnasts (35) and events to get through it was a little unwieldy the first night and lasted somewhat longer than the meet organizers had hoped The first night's competition served as a good rehearsal and the next evening s meet was much more efficiently completed

Team scores were computed the first night with the top two scores for each country counting in each event We totalled 18 55 in vaulting with Kardos 9 3 (piked O Shaw) and Chapman s 9 25 (Handspring full) McCoy boomed a couple of handspring fronts but had to take several steps upon landing and she was hit pretty hard by the judges and received only a 9 0 The Russians tied us at 18 55 Hungary and G B led after vaulting with 18 65 each

Uneven bars proved to be our undoing this evening as Linda had a major break and a fall on her dismount and received an 8 3 Kelly also had a miss that she covered well but it shortened her routine down somewhat and she received a 9 2 Merilyn hit a very nice routine and scored a 9 55 Our 18 75 total tied us with the Hungarians but the Russians with a 9 55 and a 9 65 took over the team lead with a 19.20 After two events the Russians led in the women s competition 37 75 to 37 40 for Hungary 37 30 for the U S A 37 15 for G B 36 25 for Poland and 36 05 for Canada

Balance beam proved to be a pleasant surprise for us as Linda hit a beautiful routine scoring a 9 4 Kelly with a near fall received a 9 1 and Merilyn safe and solid a 9 35 Our 18 75 total was high followed by the Hungarians at 18 65 and the Russians at 18 5 (Koval of Russia performed a little strangely on this event Near the end of her routine the warning whistle blew indicating that she had 5 seconds remaining She did not seem to be bothered by this and stood and waited a good 4-5 seconds before finally doing her dismount several seconds after the second whistle She received a score of 8 95 which was subsequently protested by the Russian coach and raised to 9 10 This 15 additional score proved to be extremely important for the Russians as that is the margin by which they eventually won the team championship over the U S A) After three events Russia 56 25 U S A and Hungary 56 05 G B 55 50 Poland 54 10 and Canada 53 25

The U S A and Russia were the class of the meet when it came to floor exercise Linda 9 45 Kelly and Merilyn both at 9 50 Koval performed her routine to an orchestrated piece of music (which all participating countries had agreed to prior to the competition) and scored a 9 55 She is a beautiful dancer and I was impressed with her routine and the effect it made with a full orchestra I believe we are going to be eventually headed in this direction and it was very interesting to observe this performance at this level of competition Our 19 00 led the field followed by Russia at 18 95 and G B at 18 65 Hungary had a rough time on floor and could only score 18 35 dropping them into 3rd place

Women

1.	**Chapman, USA**	**75.35**
2	Mueller, HUN	74 80
3.	**McCoy, USA**	**74.15**
4	Kanyo, HUN	73 55
5.	**Kardos, USA**	**73.35**
5.	Koval, USSR	73 35
7.	Robb, G B	73 30
7.	Leighton, G B	73 30
7.	Gurina, USSR	73 30
10	Horascek, HUN	72 45

After the first night's competition Merilyn had a very narrow lead over the two Russians (Koval and Gurina) 37 65 to 37 60 Judit Mueller of Hungary was 4th at 37 40 Kelly McCoy was in 6th place at 36 80 and Linda was in 10th at 36 45

We entered the 2nd night of competition with apprehension as we knew the Russians would be coming on strong and Merilyn would have to be at her best to preserve her skimpy lead Even more important than that and what, I felt, led significantly to our eventual success was the continual team emphasis and spirit displayed by our three gymnasts We went over there with a winning attitude and never lost it during the entire competition We received a number of very favorable comments from other coaches meet officials and the general public concerning our team and their happy, helpful attitude toward one another Competition this evening was only to determine all-around winners as no individual event awards were to be presented We were a little dismayed at this but it certainly did not stop our girls from working their hardest to place in the top three

Merilyn scored a 9.20 in vaulting to keep her lead over Gurina who also scored a 9 20 Koval fell on both vaults (handspring front) received an 8 65 and dropped to 5th place Kelly hit a 9 3 keeping her in 6th and Linda moved to 9th with a 9 10 High score for this event went to Robb of England with a 9 50 (piked O Shaw) Mueller of Hungary moved to 3rd with a 9 30

Merilyn once again hit a beautiful bar set leading all scoring for the evening with a 9 60 Kelly hit one of the best bar routines of her career and scored a 9 35 (we felt it should have been closer to 9 5) and Linda still having trouble with her dismount came through with a 9 00 Both Russians, coming up after we had performed fell apart on bars Gurina, who is really a beautiful bar worker (front stalder to front semi catch) missed two casts at the end of her routine and ended up with an 8 30 Koval fell on a front semi catch and scored an 8 65

The USA hits balance beam two nights in a row! Unbelievable but it happened Kardos very solid scores a 9 35 (which I protested and score was raised to 9 40) Chapman at 9 35 again and McCoy at 9 15 Both Russians once again had falls (Gurina - 8 80 Koval - 8 95) and we could taste the gold medal by this time Mueller had the high score for beam with a 9 55 moving her to within 3 of Merilyn

We knew by this time that all Merilyn had to do was hit a reasonably good floor routine and she would walk away with the gold medal She didn't disappoint any of us as she scored a 9 55 Kelly performed a beautiful double back and finished with a double twist and also scored a 9 55 Linda capped off an exciting comeback with a 9 40 Koval received a 9 50 and Gurina and Robb were also at 9 40 Mueller and Kanyo each scored 9 30

We were, of course, very excited about the strong showing by our team and the significance of placing this well in a meet of this caliber Our thanks and appreciation to the B A G A and everyone who helped to make this venture so rewarding

Jim Gault Coach

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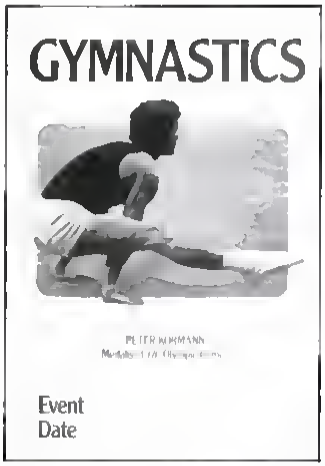

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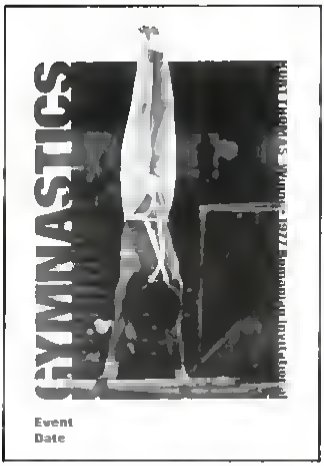

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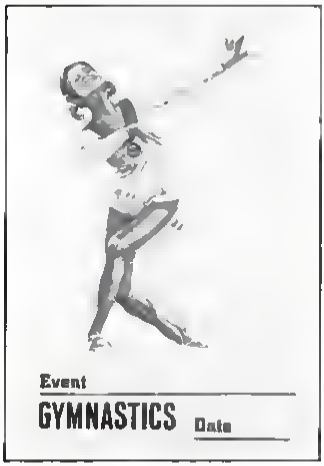

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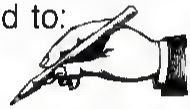

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RAY GURA — Men's Head Gymnastics Coach, Cleveland Gymnastic Center. Big 10 All Around Champion, NCAA All American. Former Men's Asst. Coach Univ. of Mich. & Univ. of Ill.

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